

ATTN: International Tax Reform Working Group

Dear Representative Nunes and Blumenaur,

I am writing to ask that the International Taxation Committee of the Ways & Means Committee for Tax Reform seriously consider the ACA proposal for reform to Residency-based taxation RBT. See link:

<http://americansabroad.org/files/6513/6370/3681/finalsubrbtmarch2013.pdf>

I have been studying toward a PhD in mechanical engineering in Sweden for the past 7 years and am now looking forward to continuing to live in this country. Every April I dread the burden of filing my taxes in the USA. And every year it gets worse, especially since I learned about the FBAR and FATCA two years ago! Filing my USA taxes generally takes me about 40 hours and the result is always that I pay nothing except the \$50 to a company that provides tax software. Sadly there is no tax software for ex-patriots so getting everything correct is a real gamble which is very stressful. My parents actually pay the \$50 dollar fee because the software company doesn't accept foreign credit cards!

Meanwhile, I file my Swedish taxes by text message. Yes, you read that correctly, I send a text message from my cellular phone to file my taxes, which are much larger than what I would pay in the USA on the same income.

Complicating matters in my situation is the farm that my parents own in the USA that was inherited from my great grandmother. My share of this farm's income is about \$1000 per year which I gladly pay taxes on. But this tiny income combined with my overseas status makes my tax reporting requirements an unfathomable mess. So much of a mess that my sister and her husband who are both CPA's specialized in income taxes refuse to even talk to me about taxes for fear of losing their licenses!

When I first moved overseas I was proud to be an American. This pride has decreased with each passing year of increasing paperwork burden. Currently the only way to escape the incredible burden is to lose my citizenship. However, it is illegal to renounce US citizenship for tax reasons.

Please, please, please seriously consider the proposal from Americans Citizens Abroad. I and many others would really like to once again be proud to be American.

Sincerely,
Gregory F Simmons

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]